operating the stapler 8 while the sheet bunch is moved (Fig. 22B).

As aforementioned, in the conventional art, the transverse width of the processing-device housing is determined in consideration of at least the width (determined by the maximum width of the sheet to be processed) of the sheet discharge port disposed on the processing tray, the size of the stapler disposed in one end on the processing tray and the size of the holding means disposed in the other end on the processing tray. As a result, the transverse width of the processing device should be large-sized.

In the post-processing device of the invention, the conveying means (first holding means) is constituted to be movable in the direction opposite to the conveying direction of the sheet bunch, and the stapler 8 is disposed inside the matched end of the conveying direction in the matched position of the sheet bunch S'. Therefore, the corner of the sheet bunch can be stapled, while the transverse width of the sheet post-processing device housing can be made small-sized.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sheet post-processing device which comprises:

storage means for storing sheets conveyed from an image forming device;

matching means for regulating at least one end of a

sheet bunch stored by said storage means to match the sheets stored by said storage means;

stapling means for stapling the sheet bunch matched by the matching means; and

transfer means for once transferring the sheet bunch matched by said matching means toward ~~the~~ other end of said sheet bunch and subsequently transferring the sheet bunch stapled by said stapling means toward said one end.

2. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein, when said transfer means once transfers the sheet bunch matched by said matching means toward the other end of said sheet bunch, a binding position of the sheet bunch, which is positioned between said matching means and a stapling position of said stapling means, in a position where the sheet bunch is matched by said matching means is moved toward said stapling position.

3. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 2 wherein after said transfer means transfers said sheet bunch toward said other end and said stapling means staples the binding position of the sheet bunch positioned between said matching means and the stapling position of said stapling means, said stapling means staples one portion or plural portions of the sheet bunch while the sheet bunch is transferred toward said one end.

4. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein when said transfer means transfers the stapled sheet bunch toward said one end, said matching means is retracted from a matching position.

5. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein said stapling means is disposed on a side edge in a direction orthogonal to a conveying direction of the sheet bunch.

6. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 which further comprises an accumulating section for accumulating the sheet bunch which is transferred to said one end by said transfer means after stapled by said stapling means.

7. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 1 wherein said matching means are disposed on front and rear ends of the conveying direction of the sheet bunch, and the stapling means is disposed between the front-end and rear-end matching means.

8. The sheet post-processing device according to claim 7 wherein when said transfer means once transfers the matched sheet bunch toward said other end, said rear-end

matching means is retracted from a matching position.